A NEW SPECIES OF *TAMARIX* (TAMARICACEAE) FROM GUJARAT, INDIA

Tamarix kutchensis Shetty & Pandey, a new species from Kutch, India is described.

Tamarix kutchensis Shetty *et* Pandey, *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1-8).

T. passerinoidi Del. ex Desv. var. *macrocarpae* Ehrenb. affinis sed foliis rectis floribus capsulisque minoribus filamentis epilophicis differet; *T sarensi* Qaiser etiam affinis sed plantis dense papillosis foliis amplexicaulibus differet.

Typus : INDIA, Kutch, Mundra Mandvi, 2-2-1957, *S. K. Jain* 11735 (Holotypus et Isotypus, BSI).

Shrubs up to 1.5 m high. Younger parts densely papillose. Leaves 1.0-2.25 × 0.5-3.0 mm, amplexicaul, broadly ovate, apex upcurved, acute to acuminate, younger leaves imbricate. Racemes simple or paniculate, mostly aestival (i.e. on younger branches), each 2-4 × 0.5-0.7 cm. Rachis papillose. Bracts 1.0-1.7 × 1.0-1.2 mm, amplexicaul, broadly triangular-ovate, acute to acuminate, margins entire or subentire. Flowers hermaphrodite. Sepals 5, subequal, almost free, 1.0-1.5 mm long, *ca* 1 mm broad, ovate to trullate-ovate, two outer ones more acute. Petals 5, 2.0-2.5 × 1.0-1.5 mm, elliptic-oblong, elliptic-obovate or oblong-obovate. Stamens 6-9 (-10), filaments 1.5-2.0 mm long, antepetalous ones slightly shorter, epilophic i.e. base of the filaments attached to the discal lobes. Disc 6-9 (-10) lobed. Ovary pyramidal, styles 3, stigmas spathulate. Capsules 5.0-6.5 × 1.5-2.0 mm. Seeds 0.5-0.75 mm long, coma sessile, *ca* 4.0 mm long.

Distribution : Known only by the type collection.

The new species is allied to *Tamarix passerinoides* Del. ex Desv. var. *macrocarpa* Ehrenb. but can be distinguished by its upright leaves, smaller flowers with the sepals up to 1.5 × 1.25 mm, petals up to 2.5 × 1.5 mm, smaller capsules, up to 6.5 mm long and the epilophic filaments i.e. the disc is lobed with the base of the filaments merging with the discal lobes. In *T, passerinoides* var. *macrocarpa* the leaves are deflexed, the sepals up to 2.25 × 1.5 mm, petals up to 4.5 × 2.5 mm, capsules up to 12.5 mm long and the filaments are epidiscine i.e. the disc is not lobed and the base of filaments meet almost at the centre. It also resembles *T sarensis* Qaiser in flower size and disc character but can be distinguished from it in the plants being densely papillose with the leaves amplexicaul. In *T sarensis* the plants are entirely glabrous and the leaves vaginate.

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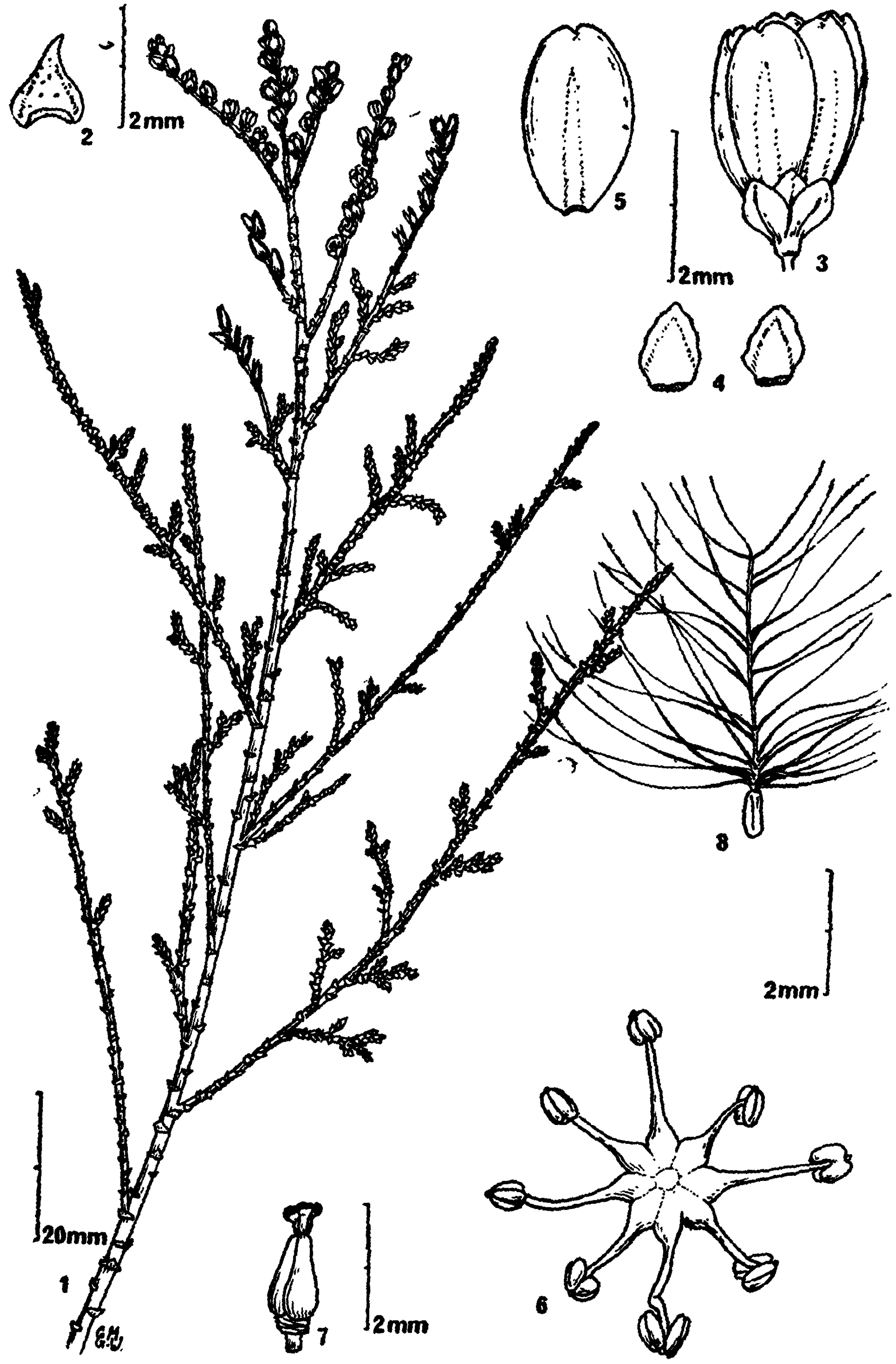

Tamarix kutchensis Shetty *et* Pandey

Figs. 1-8 : 1. Flowering branch. 2. Bract. 3. Flower. 4. Sepal. 5. Petal. 6. Androecium. 7. Gynoecium. 8. Seed.